



Course Description:

Students will be immersed in the art of language: oral, written, and spoken. The study of grammar, usage, sentence structure, writing skills, effective communication skills, and library usage (media and reference materials) for research is included in this course. Students will experience the development and maintenance of basic reading skills (word attack, comprehension, and vocabulary development). The course will include a study of the elements of literature and will adapt to different genres of reading. Reading will extend the students' skills in functional, recreational, and critical reading. The Accelerated Reading program will create growth in student reading ability and help students become independent and self-directed readers.

Instructional Philosophy:

Through the development of reading and writing skills, it is our goal that students will become academic achievers, clear communicators, responsible citizens, complex thinkers, and quality producers.

Power Standards: Writing

Standard 1: *Writing Process*

Students learn and apply all steps of the writing process with emphasis on prewriting/organization.

Standard 2: *Writing Applications*

Students write in a variety of forms with emphasis on persuasive/expository writing which will state a position and support it with evidence and emotional appeal.

Standard 3: *Writing Applications-Research*

Students research an activity or process and write a report with emphasis on sequencing and citation of at least one source.

Standard 4: *Writing Components*

Students use the 6-traits Writing Process with emphasis on punctuation, spelling, and sentence types.

Power Standards: Reading

Standard 1: *Word Recognition and Vocabulary Development*

Students use structural (affixes and roots) and contextual analysis to determine meaning of unknown words and build a more sophisticated vocabulary.

Standard 2: *Reading Interpretation*

Students identify elements of literature: setting, character, and plot.

Standard 3: *Reading Comprehension*

Students apply literal, interpretive, and evaluative strategies to create greater meaning from a variety of texts.

Major Course Projects and Assignments:

<u>Language Arts:</u>	<i>Throughout year</i>	Writing skills and processes
	<i>1st Quarter</i>	Descriptive Essay
	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	Expository Essay
	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	Business Letter / Research Report
	<i>4th Quarter</i>	Personal Narrative
	<i>Throughout year</i>	Grammar and usage skills

Major Course Projects and Assignments:

<u>Reading:</u>	<i>Throughout year</i>	Develop vocabulary
	<i>Throughout year</i>	Specific reading skills and strategies
	<i>Throughout year</i>	Independent reading practice monitored by AR

Assessment and Grading Plan:

Language Arts: Rubrics based on the 6-Traits Writing Process will be used to assess student writing
8th grade common assessments

Reading: Accelerated Reader Program
Reading comprehension
8th grade common assessments

Grading Scale:

Final grades will use the district grading scale:

A = 100% - 90%	D = 69% - 60%
B = 89% - 80%	F = 59% - 0%
C = 79% - 70%	I = Incomplete

Components of the Grade:

Language Arts: Major writing assignments
Tests and projects
In-class work

Reading: Assignments, quizzes, and homework
Tests and projects
AR Program

Students receive rubrics addressing specific expectations at the beginning of each unit.

Policy for Re-Doing Work and Opportunities for Extra Help:

All assignments will be completed at a satisfactory level, or students will be required to complete as teacher deems appropriate. All assessments can be retaken after completion of re-teaching activities. In addition to the assistance provided in the regular classroom, students may make arrangements with the teacher to receive additional assistance before or after school.

Parent Signature: _____ Student Signature: _____